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N° XXXIV.

*Astronomical Observations, communicated by Mr. RITTENHOUSE.*

By Mr. *James Six*, of Canterbury.

Geocentric place of the New Planet.

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 1st, 1782,  | 29° 5' 30" in $\pi$ lat. 13' N.     |
| October 15th,     | 7 21 18 $\infty$ nearly stationary. |
| December 26th,    | 5 2 30 in opposition.               |
| March 10th, 1783, | 3 15 0 stationary.                  |
| October 15th,     | 11 53 10 stationary.                |
| December 30th,    | 9 47 25 in opposition.              |
| March 14th, 1784, | 7 46 0 stationary.                  |

Lat. 23 N.

By *D. Rittenhouse*, at Philadelphia.

Transit of Mercury over the sun's disk, Nov. 12th, 1782.

|                         |                              |              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| First external contact, | 9 <sup>h</sup> 34' 50" morn. | } Mean Time. |
| Internal, uncertain,    | 40 0                         |              |
| Second internal,        | 10 51 30                     |              |
| Last contact,           | 57 35                        |              |

Greatest distance of  $\gamma$  center from sun's limb, 31".

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1784,                      | On Meridian.           |
| Jan. 29th. $\gamma$ Gemino | 9 <sup>h</sup> 49' 20" |
| ' Gem.                     | 9 54 45                |
| New Planet                 | 10 1 48                |
| $\zeta$ Gem.               | 10 15 19               |
| Feb. 12th. $\gamma$ Gem.   | 8 <sup>h</sup> 54' 19" |
| New Planet,                | 9 4 54                 |
| $\zeta$ Gem.               | 9 20 18                |

| 1785.                                |            | On Meridian.   |     |     |                                  |                               |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--|-----|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| January 26th.                        | ζ Gemino   | 10 <sup>h</sup>  | 24' | 14" |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 10   | 31  | 22  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | δ Gem.     | 10   | 40  | 7   |                                  |                               |
|                                      |            | <hr/>  |     |     |                                  |                               |
| February 4th.                        | ζ Gem.     | 9  | 48  | 48  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 9  | 54  | 32  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | δ Gem.     | 10   | 4   | 41  |                                  |                               |
| Feb. 12th. Observed zenith distance, |            | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \zeta \text{ Gemino } 19^{\circ} 5' 7'' \\ \text{New Planet } 16 40 45 \\ \delta \text{ Gem. } 17 35 33 \end{array} \right.$ |     |     |                                  |                               |
| Febr. 17th.                          | ζ Gem.     | 8 <sup>h</sup>   | 57' | 42" | zenith distance,                 | 16° 40' 42"                   |
|                                      | New Planet | 9  | 1   | 46  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | δ Gem.     | 9  | 13  | 35  |                                  |                               |
| Febr. 27th.                          | ζ Gem.     | 8  | 18  | 34  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 8  | 21  | 32  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | δ Gem.     | 8  | 34  | 27  |                                  |                               |
| March 12th.                          | ζ Gem.     | 7  | 27  | 14  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 7  | 29  | 41½ |                                  |                               |
|                                      | δ Gem.     | 7  | 43  | 6½  |                                  |                               |
| March 15th.                          | Sirius     | 6  | 59  | 51  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | ζ Gemino   | 7  | 15  | 30  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 7  | 17  | 54  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | δ Gem.     | 7  | 31  | 23  |                                  |                               |
| March 17th.                          | Sirius     | 6  | 51  | 58  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | ζ Gem.     | 7  | 7   | 37  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 7  | 9   | 59  |                                  |                               |
| March 22d.                           | Sirius     | 6  | 32  | 18  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | ζ Gem.     | 6  | 47  | 56  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 6  | 50  | 19  |                                  |                               |
| March 27th.                          | Sirius     | 6  | 12  | 38  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | ζ Gem.     | 6  | 28  | 16  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 6  | 30  | 45  |                                  |                               |
| 28th.                                | ζ Gem.     | 6  | 24  | 19  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 6  | 26  | 50½ |                                  |                               |
| 1786,                                |            |  |     |     | Micrometer mea-<br>sure of Z. D. | Difference in<br>min. & seco. |
| January 25th.                        | δ Gemino   | 10 <sup>h</sup>  | 45' | 1"  |                                  |                               |
|                                      | New Planet | 10   | 56  | 48  |                                  |                               |
| 26th.                                | δ Gem.     | 10   | 41  | 5   | +                                | r. d.<br>1 35                 |
|                                      | New Planet | 10   | 52  | 44  | —                                | 4 37½                         |
|                                      |            |  |     |     | <hr/>                            |                               |
| Difference,                          |            |  |     |     | 6 24½                            | = 20' 59"                     |

| 1786,         |            | On Meridian.    |     |     | Micrometer mea-<br>sure of Z. D. |        | Difference in<br>min. & seco. |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|-----|-----|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
|               |            | 10 <sup>h</sup> | 37' | 8"  | r.                               | d.     |                               |
| January 27th. | ♂ Gemino   | 10 <sup>h</sup> | 37' | 8"  | +                                | 1 34   |                               |
|               | New Planet | 10              | 48  | 37  | —                                | 4 34   |                               |
|               |            |                 |     |     | Diff.                            | 6 29   | = 21' 17"                     |
| 31st.         | ♂ Gem.     | 10              | 21  | 24  |                                  |        |                               |
|               | New Planet | 10              | 32  | 13  |                                  |        |                               |
| February 1st. | ♂ Gem.     | 10              | 17  | 28  | } Diff.                          | 7 0    | = 22 33                       |
|               | Pluto      | 10              | 28  | 7   |                                  |        |                               |
| 2d.           | μ Gem.     | 9               | 16  | 23½ |                                  |        |                               |
|               | ♂ Gem.     | 10              | 13  | 33  |                                  | 8 40   |                               |
|               | New Planet | 10              | 24  | 2   |                                  | 16 0   |                               |
|               |            |                 |     |     | Diff.                            | 7 8    | = 23 5                        |
| 3d.           | ♂ Gem.     | -               | -   | -   |                                  | 8 39   |                               |
|               | New Planet | -               | -   | -   |                                  | 16 3½  |                               |
|               |            |                 |     |     | Diff.                            | 17 12½ | = 23 24                       |
| 6th.          | ♂ Gem.     | 9               | 57  | 50  |                                  | 8 39½  |                               |
|               | New Planet | 10              | 7   | 43  |                                  | 16 17  |                               |
|               |            |                 |     |     | Diff.                            | 7 25½  | — 24 7                        |
| 10th.         | μ Gem.     | -               | -   | -   |                                  | 13 21½ |                               |
|               | ♂ Gem.     | 9               | 42  | 7   |                                  |        |                               |
|               | New Planet | 9               | 51  | 24  |                                  | 16 29½ |                               |
|               |            |                 |     |     | Diff.                            | 3 8    | = 10 13                       |
| 21st.         | ♂ Gem.     | 8               | 58  | 52  |                                  |        |                               |
|               | New Planet | 9               | 6   | 46  |                                  |        |                               |
| March 10th.   | ♂ Gem.     | 7               | 52  | 2   |                                  | 12 5½  |                               |
|               | New Planet | 7               | 58  | 31  |                                  | 21 21  |                               |
|               |            |                 |     |     | Diff.                            | 9 15½  | = 30 3                        |
| 11th.         | μ Gem.     | 6               | 50  | 55  |                                  |        |                               |
|               | ♂ Gem.     | 7               | 48  | 5   |                                  | 12 5   |                               |
|               | New Planet | 7               | 54  | 31  |                                  | 21 20½ |                               |
|               |            |                 |     |     | Diff.                            | 9 15½  | = 30 4                        |
| 12th.         | ♂ Gem.     | 7               | 44  | 9   |                                  | 13 17½ |                               |
|               | New Planet | 7               | 50  | 32  |                                  | 22 34½ |                               |
|               |            |                 |     |     | Diff.                            | 9 17   | = 30 9                        |
| 18th.         | μ Gem.     | 6               | 23  | 23  |                                  |        |                               |
|               | ♂ Gem.     | 7               | 20  | 33  |                                  | 13 16½ |                               |
|               | New Planet | 7               | 26  | 43½ |                                  | 22 35½ |                               |
|               |            |                 |     |     | Diff.                            | 9 1½   | = 30 16                       |

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| 1786,       |            |              | Micrometer mea-<br>sure of Z. D. |       | Difference in<br>min. & seco. |
|-------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
|             |            | On Meridian. | r.                               | d.    |                               |
| March 19th. | ♂ Gem.     | 7 16 37½     | 14                               | 36    |                               |
|             | New Planet | 7 22 47½     | 24                               | 8½    |                               |
|             |            |              | Diff.                            | 9 20½ | = 30 24                       |
| 21st.       | ♂ Gem.     | 7 8 46       | 5                                | 18    |                               |
|             | New Planet | 7 14 53      | 14                               | 37½   |                               |
|             |            |              | Diff.                            | 9 19½ | = 30 18                       |
| 23d.        | ♂ Gem.     | 7 0 54½      | 3                                | 28½   |                               |
|             | New Planet | 7 7 1½       | 12                               | 47    |                               |
|             |            |              | Diff.                            | 9 18½ | = 30 15                       |
| 24th.       | ♂ Gem.     | 6 56 59      | 8                                | 14½   |                               |
|             | New Planet | 7 3 0        | 17                               | 34    |                               |
|             |            |              | Diff.                            | 9 19½ | = 30 18                       |
| 25th.       | ♂ Gem.     | 6 53 3       |                                  |       |                               |
|             | New Planet | 6 59 16      |                                  |       |                               |
| 27th.       | ♂ Gem.     | 6 45 11      | 8                                | 13½   |                               |
|             | New Planet | 6 51 18      | 17                               | 31    |                               |
|             |            |              | Diff.                            | 9 17½ | = 30 10                       |
| April 2d.   | ♂ Gem.     | 6 21 36      |                                  |       |                               |
|             | New Planet | 6 27 53      |                                  |       |                               |

N. B. In these observations the declination of the New Planet was constantly greater than that of ♂ Geminorum, but less than  $\mu$ .

## N° XXXV.

*A Letter from Mr. OTTO, to Dr. FRANKLIN, with a  
Memoir on the Discovery of America.*

New-York, 1st April, 1786.

SIR,

Read Apr.  
7, 1786.

**A**LMOST all the authors who have written upon the discovery of America, make mention of some information which Christopher Columbus procured at Madeira, upon the existence of a western continent; but they do not tell us, positively, how far this in-